

in line 17, after "Fig. 2" insert --shows--;
in line 19, after "Fig. 3" insert --shows--;
in line 23, after "Fig. 4" insert --shows--; and
after line 26, insert --

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

On page 6, in line 1, delete "respectively,";
in line 24, delete "respectively,"; and
in line 25, delete "respectively,".

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On page 13, in line 6, delete "respectively,";
in line 9, delete "respectively,"; and
after line 11, add the following new paragraph --

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Although other modifications and changes may be suggested by those skilled in the art, it is the intention of the inventors to embody within the patent warranted hereon all changes and modifications as reasonably and properly come within the scope of their contribution to the art.--.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figures 1-4 to add English text for clarification as shown on the drawing copies marked in red attached to the Request for Approval of Drawing Changes filed simultaneously herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS

On page , line 1, change "Patent Claims" to -We Claim:--.
Please cancel all claims without prejudice and add new claims 20 through 38 :

20. A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection set up message proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection set up message to at least one neighboring network node;

forwarding the connection setup message to a destination communication terminal device upon reception of the connection set up message at a destination node, said destination node being identifiable with an assistance of the destination address; and

returning a confirmation message to the source communication terminal device on said route, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, a switching information for messages to be subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed.

21. A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection set up message

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proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection set up message to at least one neighboring network node; and

returning a confirmation message to the source communication terminal device on said route upon receiving of the connection setup message at a destination node, said destination node identifiable with an assistance of the destination address, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, a switching information for messages to be subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed.

22. A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection set up message proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection set up message to at least one neighboring network node;

forwarding the connection setup message to a destination communication

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terminal device upon reception of the connection set up message at a destination node, said destination node being identifiable with an assistance of the destination address; and

returning a confirmation message to a source net work node to which the source communication terminal device is allocated on said route, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, a switching information for messages to be subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed.

23. A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection set up message proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection set up message to at least one neighboring network node; and

returning a confirmation message to a source network node on said route upon receiving of the connection setup message at a destination node, said destination node identifiable with an assistance of the destination address, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, said source communication terminal device being allocated to said source network node, a switching information for messages to be

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subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed.

24. A method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of: communicating the connection setup message to a source network node, said source communication terminal device being connected to the communication network via said source network node.

25. A method according to claim 20, wherein the network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message only to a first network node, said first network node connected to the network node receiving the connection setup message, a network node address of the first network node not being entered in the received connection setup message.

26. A method according to claim 20, wherein said network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message to net work nodes being connected to the network node receiving the connection only when a plurality of network nodes traversed by a received connection setup message is lower than an adjustable limit value.

27. A method according to claim 20, wherein in instances where a plurality of connection setup message are received at the destination communication terminal device, further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of received connection setup messages based on a predetermined criteria; and

returning said confirmation message only for a setup message selected based on said selecting step.

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28. A method according to claim 27, wherein only connection setup messages that arrive within a predetermined time span after reception of a first connection setup message at the destination communication terminal device are considered for said selecting step.

29. A method according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined criteria is based on the plurality of the network nodes traversed on said route, said route being defined by the connection setup message.

30. A method according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined criteria is based on costs incurred on said route, said route being defined by the connection setup message.

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30. A method according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined criteria depends on a transmission capacity made available on said route, said route being defined by the connection setup message.

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31. A method according to claim 20, wherein a transmission of at least one of the connection setup message and the confirmation message between neighboring network nodes ensues via a specific connection provided exclusively for transmission of at least one of the connection setup and the confirmation message.

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32. A method according to claim 32, wherein at least one channel of a connecting line between two neighboring network nodes is reserved for said specific connection.

34. A method according to claim 20, wherein an i^{th} network node receiving the connection setup message enters the network node address being allocated to said i^{th} network node in the communication network into an address field of an i^{th} address pair field of the connection setup message.
35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the network node address is the layer-3 address of the network node according to Open Systems Interconnection reference model.
36. A method according to claim 34 wherein the i^{th} network node receiving the confirmation message enters a layer-2 address into a further address field of the i^{th} address pair field of the confirmation message, said layer-2 address being allocated to said i^{th} network node communication network according to the Open Systems Interconnection reference model.
37. A method according to claim 20, wherein for a bidirectional message communication between the source communication terminal device and the destination communication terminal device the switching information being deposited sets which input of the network node is linked to which output of the network node.
38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the switching information is deleted after a predetermined time span in which no messages were transmitted between the source communication terminal device and the destination communication terminal device.

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